

HOUSE BILL 291

By Harwell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39;
Title 67 and Title 68, relative to the distribution of
tobacco products.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes that tobacco use among children is a serious and preventable health problem; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly further finds that the distribution of tobacco samples to Tennessee residents increases the likelihood that Tennessee's children, youth and adolescents will gain access to and experiment with nicotine at early ages; and

WHEREAS, tobacco samples often are distributed in venues frequented by minors, youths and adolescents, including at events intended to target students at Tennessee's public and private colleges and universities, and such samples often are distributed along with other promotional items that contain tobacco brand logos intended to increase the appeal of tobacco products to Tennessee's youth; and

WHEREAS, tobacco sampling activity has increased precipitously in recent years; NOW,
THEREFORE,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 1, is amended by inserting the following as a new, appropriately designated section thereto:

(a) It is an offense for any person to engage in the business of distributing products containing tobacco that are intended for human consumption to any member of the public at no cost or at nominal cost.

(b) A violation of this subsection (a) is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.